- HERGÉ -THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN

# THE BLUE LOTUS



LITTLE, BROWN

HERGÉ

THE ADVENTURES OF

TINTIN

# THE BLUE LOTUS





### HISTORICAL NOTE

Hergé first published Le Lous Bleu in the magazine Le Petit Vingtième in Brussels in 1934-5: the story itself is set in 1931. At that time Japanese troops were occupying parts of the Chinese mainland, and Shanghai, the great seaport at the mouth of the Yangtze Kiang, possessed an International Settlement, a trading base in China for Western nations, administered by the British and Americans. Hergé based his narrative freely upon the events of the time, including the blowing-up of the South Manchurian railway, which led to further incursions by Japan into China and ultimately to Japan's resignation from the League of Nations in 1933.

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## THE BLUE LOTUS

mysterious

disappeared over a cliff.

But questions have still to be answered. What of the terrible Raisiuh juice. the 'poison of madness'? Where were the shipments of smashed and its members opium going, hidden in the are behind bars. With false cigars? And who really one exception. Only the was the master-mind behind gang-leader the operation?













RRCQ 15.30 direct special attention charles istanbul ten nasty gaps in saturday means abetan medicine easily changed west



My direction-finder shows WSW, ENE. In theory the transmitter should be along a line in the same direction, passing through



























Beware... I see another man... a man with a yellow skim... His hair is black... He wears glasses ... Take every care! He has sworn to destroy you!







Yellow skin
... black hair
... glasses
... Careful,
Tintin!









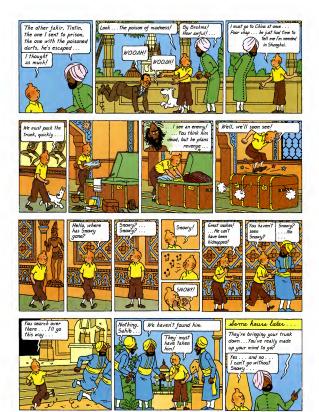
































































... Some European kid had the

nerve to back up a rickshaw



betters/





I'll try to find out the name of that











My dear Mr Tintin, you must go back to India at once. The Maharaja of Gajpajama is in great danger. I sent a Chinese messenger to tell you to guard the Maharaja. Didn't you see him?

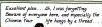
Despicable creatures!
Such persons stop at nothing! Believe me, you were wrong to leave the Maharaja.
Who knows what they will do in your absence?



## Who are 'they'?

Please pardon me, I cannot fell you more: my own life would be in danger ... But I beg you to take heed and go back to go, India.

I see ... thank
you Maybe
I'll take the
next boat back.
Meanwhile I'll
telegraph the
Maharaja to be
on his guard.





A true Japanese knows everything, honourable sir.































































































































































































































































It's quite true...
I owe him my life.
But please, why.
was he guarding
me, and why have
I been prevented
from making my
journey?



Certainly, I owe you an apology



























Perfect! ... Now the coast is clear

I'm certain to succeed, Excellency, provided your propaganda is well organised ... It will be? ... That is good! ... Goodbye then, Excellency ...



We hoped you would be willing to help us, so we sent a messenger to India ... But Mitsuhirato's spy network is excellent. They attacked the messenger and he went mad ... Yet you still came, and ...



































The word Yokohama





































































Ministry of War Tokyo Stop Chinese bandits have blown up Shanghai-Nanking railway





This is Radio Tokyof . . . The effrontery of Chinese guernilias knows no bound! News yat in delaits a Treacherous attack on the Shangkai Nanking railway . . .

... Having blown up the track, the brigands . . .

... stopped the train and attacked the innocent passengers . . .

... Reports tell of many killed trying to defend themselves.



















and once again Japan has fulfilled

















I'm going to enjoy myself, dear friend. Here on the outskirts of Shanghai no one saw you arrive, and no one will ever see you leave, if that's what I decide.



You are at my mercy. If I so wish, you will vanish ... But all things considered, I don't want to kill you. No, on the contrary, I've decided to lef you go...



I must say, I hadn't expected this . . .













Whatever





































I was hidden in the next room. I put coloured water in place of the Rajaijah, and I've brought you the real poison. I took care of his knife and his gun too. . . .



































































































































Dawson here, Chief of





It's a deal, Major

























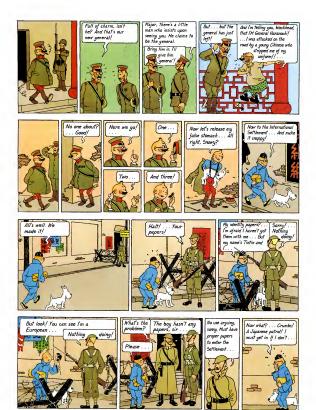










































































<sup>\*</sup> See Cigars of the Pharaoh













reception given in his

















Hello? ... Yes, it's ... What is it? What?!! You didn't arrest him? Dozy dolt!



fault, Chief The porter didn't warn me soon enough. He'd already



Let's go over the professor's route from the time he got out of Rastapopoulos's









know

I don't

that na



He alidn't wish to give his















Hello?...Richards? Take Brown and go to the Fang Hsi-ying house on the Street of Infinite Wisdom Tintin is on his way there. Hundouff him and bring him here!









Dear Chen, I have been suzed by hinese gangoler demands

Chinese gangators demanders of a ransom of 50,000 dollar. It is constilled the police do not look for them. If day are alarmed they will kill me.

will kell me.

The ransom is to be life, within a fortnight, at the old limple about an hour's yourself from theless on the right bank of the yangge kiang. As I want were never sufficient more negligible more more sufficient more

I'm going to look for the Professor
... While I'm gone will you look
after this package? ... Please,
the the contest are of it.





























# Two days later... Venerable Master, Tintin is a prisoner of the Japanese and they've condemned him to de











You really think he'll



































We must leave the city



















Ah, so! That pest











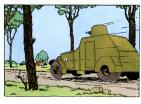






















Hello? ... Yes ... What? . . Someone stole an armoured car? ... It isn't possible ... you must be mad! ...! ... Very well, I'm coming/





Why didn't you go after them . . . immediately? . . Answer me! . . Why not?







Three-quarters of an hour since they took off! What are they doing?





Yes, General . . . We found the armoured car halted 20 kilometres away . . Yes, we landed and had a look ... Empty ... No. no one at all ... I don't know ... But sir ... Hello? . . . Hello?



Bunglers, bunglers,

bunglers ! ... The

lot of them! ...

Who knows where

Let's take it step by step. If we're going to save your son we must find Fang Hsi-ying. Then we'll take care of Mitsuhirato and his











































But Chang, all white men were wicked, like those who killed my grandfather and grandmother long ago. During the War of Righteous and Fists, my The Boxer Rebellion. father said

thought all white devils





that all Chinese are cunning and cruel and wear pigtails, are always inventing tortures, and eating rotten eggs and swallows nests.



The same stupid Europeans are quite convinced that all Chinese have tiny feet, and even now little Chinese girls suffer agonies with bandages . . .



designed to prevent their feet developing normally. They're even convinced that Chinese rivers are full of unwanted babies, thrown in when they are born.





Meanwhile.



























Of course, but the



No, maybe not

A reason? . . How should I know? . . . . What if you suspect him of involvement in the kidnapping of Professor Fang Hsi-ying, for example . . . .



Chinese Police Headquarters ... Good morning, Mr Dunson ... What? ... Fang Hsi-ying? ... You've got a lead? ... A European? And you want a pass for your getectives ... Of course ...





















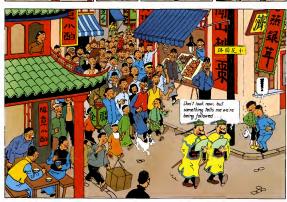






































Now I understand



























































The ransom letter







































































Pity! ... Listen,

Yamato . . . Get busy

















Why shouldn't he be?
... He's been there
for over a week ...

















Look here, I'm not



Doesn't matter/





They know everything, I heard them. They know Mr Wang has been looking after us. They're going to kidnap him Tonight with his wife and son. And us too, if they find us there.







































The Blue Lotus? . . It's an opium den in Shanghai . . . How do I get in without being recognised? . . . In disguise? . . .























































Midnight tomorrow? . . .























So you can abandon all hope!
They say the Chinese aren't afraid to
die. Well, I ver prepared a fitting end
for you!
Your son, Wang, your
own mad son, will cuil off your head!
Picture the seene. Your wife,
Tintin, and you, all beheaded by













I know perfectly well you were in the barrel . . You were at the Othe Lotus last night . . and had a good faugh at my expense, no cloubt . . You heard the orders I gave Yamato . . Everything had gone your way . . . But one of my men saw you leave and alerted me.

I told myself you certainly wouldn't be able to resist such a good opportunity, so I set a Trap. I told them to leave you alone they loosened the lop of one barrel, and everything happened as I'd foreseen!

Well done, Mr. Mitsuhirato.



Cleverer than you thought, anyway! ... Ah, here's an old friend of yours ... He doesn't want to miss your execution! ...





































I bow my old head in respect before the courage of your

youth, Chang!

Well, gentlemen! It's my turn to do the explaining. Mr Mitahinato ... Were you really silly enough to believe Id walk straight into the liens jaws? ... You must think Im a very simple sou!!













## SHANGHAI NEWS 上海報

#### FANG HSI-YING FOUND: Professor Prisoner in Opium Den

SHANGHAL Wednesday: Professor Fang Hsi-ying has been by police at Blue Lotus opium den. found! The good news was flashed The transmitter was used by the to us this morning.

Last week eminent scholar Fang wth their ships on the high seas. disappeared on his way home from Information radioed included sea a party given by a friend. Police routes, ports to be avoided, points of efforts to trace him were unavailing, embarkation and uploading. No clues were found. Young Euro-



Professor Fang Hit-ping steasoed and ofter his society Sons of the Dragon aided captured documents. Tintin in the rescue. Fang Hsi-ying was kidnapped by an international gang of drug smugglers, now all safely in police custody.

A wireless transmitter was found drug smugglers to communicate

Home of Japanese subject Mitsuhirato was also searched. No pean reporter comment, say police on reports of Tintin joined seizure of top-secret documents in the hunt Unconfirmed rumours suggest the

for the missing papers concern undercover political man of science, activity by a neighbouring power. Earlier we re- Speculation mounts that they ported incidents disclose the recent Shanghaiinvolving Tintin Nanking railway incident as a and the occupy- pretext for extended Japanese ing Japanese occupation. League of Nations

forces. Secret officials in Geneva will study the

#### TINTIN'S OWN STORY

This morning, hero of the hour Mr Wang, a tall, elderly, venerable Mr Tintin, talked to us about his adventures.



villa on the Nanking road. Professor Fong His-When we rune, with Sacary, his

faithful compension. called, our hero, young and smiling, greeted us wearing Chinese dress. Could this really be the scourge of the terrible Shanghai gangsters?

After our greetings and congratulations, we asked Mr Tintin to tell us how he succeeded in smashing the most dangerous organisation.

man with an impish smile said: "You must tell the world it is entirely due to him that my wife. my son and I are alive today!"

With these words our interview was concluded, and we said farewell to the friendly reporter and his kindly host. Young people carry posters of Thatia through Sharehai street



The canclusions of the Sub-Committee leave no room for doubt. The documents seized in Shanghai provide irrefutable proof. The attack upon the Shanghai-Nanking railway was planned and executed by a Japanese subject working upon direct orders from his government/ . .



I categorically deny the accusations contained in the report of the 873rd Sub-Committee. These accusations are an insult to which Japan declines to make any response other than silence and contempt! Nevertheless, to prove that the integrity of my country is beyond doubt .

I am authorised to announce that my government has ordered its troops to withdraw from Chinese territories occupied after the incide on the Shanghai-Nanking railway To that, gentlemen, I must add with regret that in solemn protest against the affront to my country, Japan finds hersel obliged to resign from the League of Nations!





### Meanwhile, in Shanghai.

I have wonderful news for you: my son is cured! . Professor Fang Hsiying has discovered an antidote to the terrible of madness!

He has? ... Oh. how glad I am!

























































#### The Adventures of Tintin by Hergé

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